

Ye Olde Plum News

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A DAMSEL IN DISTRESS

New novel by P.G. Wodehouse

(London, Oct 1919) The door of the cab opened, and the girl in brown jumped in. "I'm so sorry," she said breathlessly, "but would you mind hiding me?"

This was the beginning of all the troubles. George Bevan not only hid the pretty stranger in his taxi, but knocked the hat of a peer. The girl then disappears but George Bevan determines to find her.

A Damsel in Distress is written with the wit and humour characteristic of Mr. Wodehouse at his best. It was published 1919 as a serial in Saturday Evening Post in USA.

"A Damsel in Distress" as Silent Movie

(Hollywood, Oct 1919) Recorded and released in USA by Pathé Exchange. Based on the novel by Mr. P. G. Wodehouse, with screenplay by Mr. Guy Bolton.

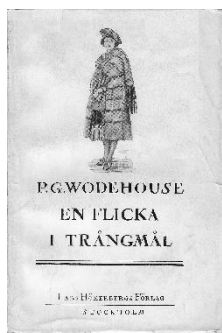
(Paris Nov 1920) The movie is released also in France by Pathé Frères with the title Mam'zelle Milliard.

Wodehouse conquers Sweden

(Stockholm, 1921) Wodehouse's novel *A Damsel in Distress* is now released in Swedish translation, *En flicka i trångmål*. It's the third novel by Wodehouse published in Swedish.

Piccadilly Jim was his first novel published in Swedish 1920 and also the first published translation of a novel by Wodehouse into any other language.

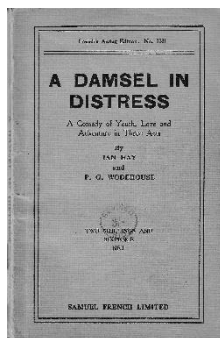
Short stories have been translated into Swedish since 1912.



Success in London for the play "A Damsel in Distress" by Hay/Wodehouse

(London 1929) The first performance of the play was given Aug 13 1928 at London New Theatre. Totally 234 performances were given.

The play is based on the novel by Mr. Wodehouse. The conversion to a play in mainly made by Mr. Ian Hay.



Wodehouse leaves MGM for RKO

(Hollywood, 1937) Mr. Wodehouse is working for RKO to make a screenplay of his novel *A Damsel in Distress*. It will be a musical show with Mr. Fred Astaire in the leading part and with music by Mr. George Gershwin.

"I think the picture is going to be good," Mr. Wodehouse tells.

Premiere: A Damsel in Distress

(Hollywood, Nov 19, 1937)



Illustrated summaries of the film A Damsel in Distress

(Hollywood, Dec 1937) Two summaries of the film are published in magazines:

- The Movie Story Magazine, Dec
- Screen Romances, Dec.

BOX OFFICE FAILURE

(Hollywood 1938) The Astaire-movie *A Damsel in Distress* was not very well received by audience and critics. A common reaction is that they miss Ginger Rogers. Miss Joan Fontaine can't really fill her place.

A Damsel in Distress in Sweden

(Stockholm Feb 1938) The film *A Damsel in Distress* had its premiere in Sweden. An illustrated summary was published in the magazine *Filmjournalen*.

"They mangled my screenplay!"

(New York, 1975) P. G. Wodehouse accuses RKO. He says that the failure of the film depended on that they "handled my screenplay over to hired assassins. They made a Mess of it and mangled it."

"Reaching for the moon"

(New York, 1987) Eastman School of Music gave seven performances of this musical. It is based on the novel *A Damsel in Distress* by P. G. Wodehouse and on the play with the same name by Mr. Ian Hay and Mr. P. G. Wodehouse. The transfer was made by Prof. John Mueller who used music by Mr. George Gershwin written for the 1937 movie *A Damsel in Distress* but never used in it.

"A foggy day"

(Ontario, 1999) This musical was given in 261 performances at the Shaw Festival in Ontario, Canada. It is a new name given to the musical earlier called *Reaching for the moon* from 1987.